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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 29 | Humidity 42% Mainly Clear sky Sensex 75,735 | Nifty 22,913 | Gold 86,183 | Silver 97,472 | Dollar 86.57 | Euro 90.50 | GBP 109.24

HOT NEWS

Early onset of summer with daytime temperatures already breaching the 34°C mark point to a rerun of 2016 in 2025

PAGE 6

PRINCIPAL INTEREST

School Education Dept issues directive requiring all headmasters to record their movements when attending meetings or events during school hours

PAGE 7

Intervention on behalf of migrants urged after workers' group's report shows labourers have been denied wages, at least 10 have died under mysterious circumstances, two murdered, four minor girls sexually assaulted

THE WAGES OF FEAR

Growing hostility as many often mistaken for Bangladeshis, say activists

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A surge in attacks on migrant workers in Bengaluru has raised concerns, with human rights groups highlighting an alarming trend of violence, exploitation, and neglect faced by labourers, particularly those from West Bengal.

In a recent incident, a migrant labourer from West Bengal was found critically injured near Kodigehalli Railway Station. He was rushed to Victoria Hospital but succumbed to his injuries on February 3. The Bengaluru Rural Railway Police registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) at Yeshwantpur Railway Police Station and launched an investigation, but the circumstances leading to his death remain unclear.

This case is not isolated. In another disturbing incident, a 29-year-old migrant worker from West Bengal was physically assaulted under unknown circumstances.

The plight of migrant children is particularly alarming. In a horrifying incident in Yelahanka, a nine-year-old girl was raped and, in an attempt to cover up the crime, the perpetrator took her near a railway track and tried to murder her. Fortunately, local residents intervened, and the accused was arrested. However, despite the trauma she endured, the child has not yet been provided with counselling.

While police are investigating, activists argue that such attacks are becoming increasingly frequent, often going unnoticed or unreported. Many migrants are allegedly being targeted under false suspicions of being illegal immigrants,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 »

"Many of them are daily wage labourers, but at night, when they go to collect plastic bottles, they are attacked. The recent incident highlights the urgent need for police to register cases and investigate thoroughly

— Rights activist

Going to waste

K'taka govt report claims state waste processing in state has doubled over past 2 years

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Over the last two years (between October 2022 and January 2025), waste processing in Karnataka has more than doubled, a recent report from the Government of Karnataka has claimed.

The report highlighting the status of solid waste management in all urban areas across the state shows that while the total quantity of solid waste generated in urban areas is 12,140 tonne per day (TPD), there has been an improvement in the waste processing capability since October 2022.

In the last six months, the solid waste processing quantum has increased and the gap has been reduced from 6,399 TPD in 2022 to 2,109 TPD currently.

In October 2022, as much as 5,741 TPD of solid waste was processed in 316 urban local bodies across the state. This went up to 6,639 TPD in October 2023, followed by 7,717 TPD in May 2024, and in January 2025 total waste processed was 10,031 TPD.

The report further highlights that Karnataka also produces 760 TPD of inert waste, which is currently being disposed of at sanitary landfills as per Municipal Solid Waste Management Rule, 2016.

In Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) BBMP limit of 3,025 TPD of wet waste is being generated, out of which 2,180 TPD is being processed leading to a gap

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Painting workshop

Unleash your child's creativity at the Kids Glass Painting Workshop at BLVD Club by Embassy. This engaging session encourages artistic expression while parents enjoy a relaxing weekend at Bangalore's premier luxury club.
Where: BLVD Club, Embassy;
When: February 22

02 Mythic drama

Witness the Kurukshetra war come to life in a spectacular dance musical blending classical dance, music, and special effects
Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra; When: February 22-23

03 Sufi night

Experience the lyrical and melodic genius of Hazrat Amir Khusrau as Madhumita Ray brings his timeless compositions to life. Discover the evolution of Khayal, Qawwali, Ghazal, and rare ragas through an evening of soulful melodies and historical insights.
Where: IME, Performance Theatre
When: February 21, 6.00 pm

04 Expressive realms

Immerse yourself in a collaborative art exhibition and drag performance, exploring the evolving meaning of queerness through interactive installations and live acts.
Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar
When: February 22, 6.00 pm

05 Grace in motion

Witness Alex's mesmerising fusion of Bollywood, Freestyle, Belly Dance, and Kathak, honed under legendary mentors. A celebration of movement, tradition, and artistic expression.
When: Urban Solace- Café for the soul
When: February 22, 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

'Chance to perform for audience that can connect with your music is serene'

Pianist Harsha Jade shares his journey from engineering to music, stressing improvisation, collaboration, and emotional connection in performances

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Jade performs in multiple genres, including classical, jazz, blues, pop, and fusion with Indian Classical artists

In conversation with Bangalore Mirror, pianist Harsha Jade recalled that he was only about age 9 or 10 when his father brought him an audio tape with a recording of tunes played by a pianist. He had encountered the pianist at a hotel he was staying at in Delhi. "I started listening to it every day and began to imitate the music on the cassette with a little keyboard that was gifted to me. Later, my father's friend suggested that I go to JC Marthand. Then I began to play classical music," he said. Today, Jade plays across various genres such as classical, jazz and blues, pop, and fusion with Indian classical artists.

Jade, who came to Bengaluru as an engineering student and continued to pursue a career in the field for about five years, decided to take up music as a profession 12 years ago and has not looked back since. Talking about his music, Jade noted that he strictly sticks to the original while playing classical music. However, with popular and fusion music, he feels free to interpret and express with his improvisation. When asked about his inspirations, Jade said, "Earlier on, I listened to the classical greats but then began to listen to jazz and pop artists like Chick Corea and Joe Sample. When one begins to listen to a genre of artists, they can individually interpret the melody and grow into their style. There is a lot of room for creativity in contemporary music."

He expressed that creative blocks are not strangers to musicians. He said that those who do not compose music but rather recreate it also tend to get saturated and must take time out from their routine. "Every artist, when they experience a creative block, should switch from their normalcy and dive into exploring a different aspect of music they have not before. For example, there was a time when I listened to Hindustani classical music alone. This simple change made me look at music from a different perspective," he said. He suggested that consistently interacting with various kinds of musicians to exchange ideas and evolve helps get rid of creative blocks.

> **"Every artist, when they experience a creative block, should switch from their normalcy and dive into exploring a different aspect of music they have not before**
> –Harsha Jade, pianist

Jade advised young pianists to build a solid foundation with a good teacher while simultaneously exploring various genres. "Do what matters to you deeply and choose the kind of music that resonates with you emotionally," he said. He opined that it's best to try and collaborate with other artists to understand one's standing in the ecosystem. "The most rewarding part of my career is the emotional happiness, may it be the practice sessions, collaboration or even solo performances. The repeated opportunity to perform opposite an audience that can connect with your music and feel its beauty is serene," he said.

Jade said that music has the power to change individual thinking and drive connections. "Unfortunately, it does not have the power to introduce change in the system and policies that affect our daily lives, but it is very important at an individual level as it helps shape our hearts and minds," he stated. While talking about his upcoming projects, he said, "My goal is to bring our ethnic music to the forefront – the folk music of India through the piano. Another goal is to collaborate with other artists."

Workers' dignity: Is it too much to ask for?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

leading to hate-driven violence.

"There is growing hostility toward migrant workers, often mistaken for Bangladeshis. Many of them are daily wage labourers, but at night, drug addicts and intoxicated individuals gather near railway tracks and attack them when they go to collect plastic bottles. The recent incident highlights the urgent need for police to register cases and investigate thoroughly, as such attacks are on the rise," sources from an NGO advocating for migrant workers' rights.

Reports of murders, assaults, and wage exploitation

The All India Centre of Shramik Swaraj (AICSS) has flagged multiple instances of violence against migrant workers in Karnataka. In a letter to the office of the West Bengal Migrant Workers' Welfare Board, the organisation documented cases of suspicious deaths, murders, sexual assaults, and wage exploitation. According to the report, at least 10 workers have died under mysterious circumstances, two were murdered, and four minor girls were sexually assaulted under POCSO laws.

Additionally, several migrant workers have been denied wages, forcing them into financial distress. The AICSS has called for immediate intervention, demanding justice for victims, compensation for affected families, and stricter legal action against perpetrators. Rights groups and NGOs are urging authorities to take stronger measures to ensure the safety and dignity of migrant workers in the city.

Rights activists are urging stronger measures to protect the safety and dignity of migrant workers in the city.

Human rights violations against migrants are on the rise. R Kaleem Ullah, National Vice President of All India Shramik Swaraj Kendra (AISSK), told BM, "There is an orchestrated spread of hate, especially on visual media. Drug addicts, particularly, target these vulnerable communities, labelling them as 'Bangladeshi' and attacking them. This has to stop."

The NGO recently organised a health check-up camp for migrant children, where doctors found many to be severely malnourished and lacking basic nutrition. Additionally, these communities receive no proper compensation or insurance for victims of such attacks.

The situation is further worsened by the increasing number of drug addicts in the city, including minors. Most of these migrants work as beggars, daily wage labourers, or plastic bottle collectors to sustain their families.

West Bengal govt intervention urged

To ensure justice, activists have requested the West Bengal government to send a team of police officials to collaborate with the city police. The team will review CCTV footage, investigate suspicious deaths, and verify forensic reports, which sources suggest may have been manipulated. "Even post-mortem reports are being altered to cover up the truth. We demand a transparent investigation to bring justice to these victims and their families," said Kaleem Ullah.

Electrocution compensation: KPTCL's plea rejected

The High Court's division bench has rejected KPTCL's writ appeals that challenged the single bench's 2022 ruling, which awarded Rs 1.28 crore compensation for three electrocution incidents, including two involving minors. Justices V Kameshwar Rao and CM Joshi maintained that statutory obligation breaches causing personal harm can be addressed through Public Law Remedy via Article 226 petitions.

The single bench, on August 4, 2022, referenced the Electricity Act, 2003, emphasising that Transmission Utility and Distribution Companies must ensure equipment safety during transmission and supply, including consumer premises. This ruling resulted in compensation orders for three victims.

Chandana K from Lottegollahalli, a ninth-grade student, received Rs 51.76 lakh for serious injuries from electrocution on October 19, 2017, requiring elbow and plastic surgeries. Six-year-old Muizz Ahmed Shariff was awarded Rs 50.82 lakh after being electrocuted by a 66 KV HT Line's induction zone in 2017. Agricultural worker Subramanya's death by electrocution in a coffee plantation resulted in Rs 25,52,500 compensation. **BMB**

CRIME FILES

3 men killed while filming reels on railway tracks

Three young men lost their lives after being hit by a passenger train while recording videos on their mobile phones near Siddanayakanahalli, on the outskirts of the city, on Wednesday afternoon.

The victims, identified as Rahul (18), Bikash (20), and Lallan (24), were carpenters from Uttar Pradesh, working in Doddaballapur. They had taken a break from work and were walking along the tracks when the tragic incident occurred.

Preliminary investigations suggest the trio was recording videos, likely for social media reels, when they failed to notice the approaching train. They were killed on the spot.

The Yeshwantpur railway police have registered an Unnatural Death Report (UDR) and shifted the bodies for post-mortem. The victims' families have been informed, and further investigations are underway.

Man attacks wife, her alleged lover

The Kadugodi police have arrested a 45-year-old farmer, his daughter, and his brother-in-law for allegedly attacking his wife and her male friend with a machete after catching them in an alleged affair. The incident took place at the accused's old house in Belathur, Kadugodi, on Thursday.

The victim, Kishore (38), a private school bus driver, was hacked to death on the spot, while Arundhati, the accused's wife, sustained critical injuries and is currently battling for her life in the ICU of a private hospital.

The accused, identified as Yallappa (45), a farmer from Srinivasapura in Kolar, along with his daughter Pooja (21) and brother-in-law Venkatacharappa, an auto-rickshaw driver, have been arrested on charges of murder and attempted murder.

Investigations revealed that Kishore and Arundhati, who were distant relatives, frequently met at the house owned by Yallappa. Aware of their affair, Yallappa had frequent arguments with his wife over the issue.

On Thursday, when Arundhati went to meet Kishore, Yallappa, along with his accomplices, followed her armed with a machete, allegedly attacking the duo after catching them red-handed.

Passers-by who witnessed the brutal assault immediately alerted the police, who rushed to the scene and arrested the accused. The Kadugodi police have registered a case and further investigations are underway. **BMB**

Milk price hike on the cards?

KMF urges milk prices be raised by Rs 5 per litre

The Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has submitted a proposal to the state government seeking a ₹5 per litre increase in the price of Nandini milk. The decision regarding the price hike is likely to be taken after the state budget, when Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is expected to review the proposal. KMF and its member district cooperative milk unions have been urging the government for months to approve the price hike.

Recently, dairy farmers staged a protest outside the KMF headquarters in Bengaluru, demanding an increase in milk prices. Following this, KMF representatives and district milk union leaders held a meeting and agreed to formally submit the proposal to the government.

According to the proposal, rising production costs have made a price hike unavoidable. If the government does not approve the increase, district milk unions may face financial losses, and farmers could struggle economically. The proposal also highlights that, compared to other milk brands, Nandini milk remains as one of the cheapest in the market.

Possible ₹3 per litre increase after budget

Sources said that the milk price hike proposal is now under the Chief Minister's consideration. It is said that Siddaramaiah will hold discussions with the Cooperation Minister, Animal Husbandry Minister, KMF President, and district milk union representatives after the budget and legislative session.

The Chief Minister is expected to make a balanced decision, ensuring minimal burden on consumers while safeguarding the interests of milk unions and farmers. Insiders suggest that the price hike could be limited to ₹3 per litre, instead of ₹5.

Previous price revisions

In August 2023, the price of Nandini milk was increased by ₹3 per litre, raising the retail price from ₹39 to ₹42 per litre. Due to record-high milk production in the state, KMF later revised its pricing structure to distribute additional milk to consumers. Under the revised plan, all varieties of Nandini milk saw a ₹2 per litre price increase, with customers receiving an extra 50 ml of milk for every litre purchased.

Final decision awaited

"We have urged the government to approve a price hike in the best interests of farmers and district milk unions. The final decision will be taken by the Chief Minister after consultations," said Bheema Nayak, President of KMF. **BMB**

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- FT 06 Thailand
- JJ 07 Best of Japan
- PY 07 Phuket Krabi Bangkok
- FH 07 Hong Kong Shenzhen Macao
- FI 08 Bali Jakarta
- FZ 10 Singapore Thailand Malaysia
- FV 10 Vietnam Cambodia
- JA 10 Japan Alpine Route Ashikaga Flower Park
- P7 12 Images of Europe
- SN 07 Andaman Swaraj Dweep Shaheed Dweep
- KF 07 Kashmir Vaishnodevi
- KD 07 Delightful Kashmir
- HF 08 Shimla Manali
- HS 08 Dalhousie Dharamshala Amritsar
- HE 12 All of Himachal
- NT 12 Amazing North East
- E7 12 Enticing Europe
- DC 13 Uttaranchal Chardham Yatra
- ES 14 Best of Europe

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- WS 05 Singapore
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- JP 08 Japan Cherry Blossom
- MS 08 Sri Lanka
- AM 11 Australian Escape
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- HS 07 Shimla Manali
- KA 07 Delightful Kashmir
- NX 08 Leh Apricot Blossom
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Broken footpaths near Cubbon Park raise safety concerns

Pedestrians, especially seniors, struggle with missing pavers; activists slam civic agency for poor infrastructure maintenance despite allocated Smart City funds

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The missing pavers on a portion of the footpath have become a cause of concern for pedestrians, especially those entering Cubbon Park through KR Circle for a walk. Pedestrians, particularly senior citizens, have to walk on it cautiously to avoid slipping and falling.

The footpath was developed by Bangalore Smart City Limited a few years ago, but authorities seem to have overlooked the quality of the work. It is also surprising that no efforts have been made to restore the footpath or even investigate why it has deteriorated to such a pathetic condition.

The footpath outside Cubbon Park is in a poor shape

> **If footpaths in heart of city are in such poor state, how can public expect better infrastructure elsewhere?**
> –Vinod J, Namma Bengaluru Foundation

Expressing concern over the situation, Satish Rao, a social activist from Indiranagar, said the condition of the footpath illustrates very vividly the pathetic state of Bengaluru's infrastructure. "Potholes, garbage, yellow spots, broken or non-existent footpaths, fused streetlights left unchanged, overflowing sewage, and the list goes on. Despite this, BBMP, the state government, and other concerned authorities are busy spending or planning for LED kerbs, Sky Decks, Tunnel Roads, and other projects. Their priorities are completely misplaced," he said.

He pointed out that even prime areas of the Central Business District (CBD) and other high-tax areas are being neglected. "Will BBMP pay compensation if someone gets injured due to faulty infrastructure? Never. Until BBMP is held accountable for mishaps caused by its inefficiency, nothing will change. Accountability and action are the need of the hour," he added.

Thanmaya BB, a consultant who regularly visits Cubbon Park for a walk, criticised the state of footpaths despite the crores spent under the Smart City project. "These footpaths are supposed to be accessible to physically and visually challenged individuals. Unfortunately, even able-bodied people are forced to walk on the road, risking their safety," Thanmaya said.

S Umesh, president of the Cubbon Park Walkers' Association, came down heavily on BBMP for its failure to maintain footpaths. He highlighted the poor condition of the stretch opposite Century Club. "If this is the state of a footpath in the heart of the city, one can only imagine the condition elsewhere. I believe BBMP should be privatised," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, Vinod Jacob of Namma Bengaluru Foundation expressed shock over the poor state of footpaths in the city centre. "If footpaths in the heart of the city are in such a poor state, how can the public expect better infrastructure elsewhere across the rest of Bengaluru?"

He highlighted the importance of well-maintained pedestrian infrastructure. "Broken and encroached footpaths make last-mile connectivity a challenge, forcing pedestrians onto unsafe roads. Without simple, good-quality footpaths, we cannot ensure pedestrian safety or encourage citizens to use public transport effectively. The last mile of every journey is always by foot, and it's high time we prioritise walkable, accessible footpaths to make Bengaluru a truly liveable city," he said.

HSR citizen forum offers support and education on safe menstrual practices

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HSR Citizen Forum has launched an ambitious awareness campaign with CSR funding to promote sustainable menstruation and reduce environmental harm. The initiative, which began 15 days ago, aims to educate women and girls about the benefits of using eco-friendly menstrual products like cloth pads and menstrual cups.

Dr Shanthi Tumalla, a sustainability expert and member of the HSR Citizen Forum, emphasised the urgency of the campaign. "Sanitary pads contain harmful chemicals, but many women are unaware of their impact. A woman uses pads for about 60 days a year, and over time, this can affect her health without her realising it," she said.

Sustainable menstruation aids health, savings and environment

The project focuses on reaching college students and government office employees by distributing sustainable menstrual products to those in need. The mission is to help 2,000 girls and women transition to sustainable menstruation, reducing the number of single-use, chemically loaded pads being disposed of by approximately 20,000 pads per month from landfills.

Volunteers are conducting awareness sessions to break the stigma surrounding menstruation and promote the benefits of eco-friendly options. "We are encouraging young girls to use cloth pads, which can last for three years and are better for the environment. For older women, menstrual cups are a great option, as they can be used for 8-10 years and save a lot of money," Dr Shanthi explained.

Many institutions believe incinerators are a solution to disposing of sanitary waste, but Dr Shanthi warns of the dangers. "Most schools and colleges think burning pads is safe, but incinerators release dioxins, which are highly toxic and the number one human carcinogen. Inhaling these fumes is very harmful," she said.

Tampons, another common menstrual product, also pose risks. "Tampons contain harmful chemicals and come in direct contact with the vaginal area. Menstrual cups, on the other hand, are chemical-free, environmentally friendly, and comfortable," she added.

Beyond education, the initiative creates support systems for women. "After awareness sessions, we form WhatsApp groups where women can ask questions and share their experiences. We provide guidance and answer their doubts," Dr Shanthi said. The forum is also planning sessions for policewomen to ensure they have access to safe menstrual practices.

Sustainable menstruation is crucial for women's health, financial savings, and environmental protection. While World Menstrual Hygiene Day is observed on May 28, many people are still unaware of it, noted HSR Citizen Forum. Through this initiative, they hope to change perceptions, encourage sustainable practices, and create a healthier future for women.

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Uncleared walkway
HSR Layout

The pavement on 13th Main, 21st Cross, and 7th Sector, HSR Layout, remains littered with construction debris. Despite repeated complaints, neither the owner nor BBMP has acted. The neglected site is now a breeding ground for rats and snakes.

Waste crisis
CV Raman Nagar

The road behind the Bagmane Tech Park, CV Raman Nagar, remains covered in construction waste for 3–4 months, making it hazardous for commuters.

Road blocked
Neelsandra

Waste mud dumped by a road contractor is blocking traffic near the Infant Jesus Church, Neelsandra, causing inconvenience.

Man of multiple tall claims

Coimbatore police finally arrest man who is accused of defrauding many through false promises

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Law has caught up at last with a notorious fraudster who posed as a doctor, psychiatrist, ex-serviceman, and CEO of a hospital to cheat multiple people in the city. The accused, who was involved in large-scale financial fraud, cheating, and money laundering through false promises and deceptive means, however, was caught by Coimbatore police.

One of his victims met the accused through a volunteer, when Suresh Menon introduced himself as a highly decorated military officer, an IIM alumnus, and the son of an Indian diplomat. He shared a fabricated story of personal loss and financial distress, stating he was homeless due to business losses during covid-19. Menon claimed to be recruiting for high-profile positions at organisations like the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), Amity University, and major banks, in collaboration with Rajesh Prasad, who he claimed was an HR executive.

The victim referred multiple contacts including close relatives and friends for job placements. Menon conducted fake interviews in a coffee shop and demanded a "refundable" registration fee of Rs 4,000 per candidate. Later, he claimed that company verifications were handled by Ernst & Young, requiring additional payments, which victims deposited into the accounts of Prasad and Menon.

As complaints from these people arose, the victim, who had mediated these job referrals, reimbursed many of them, assuming he could recover the money from Menon. However, Menon disappeared and stopped responding to him. When the victim and his friend confronted Menon at an address in Coimbatore, he denied the allegations, avoided them, and is said to have issued death threats.

Acting on the complaint, the police have now arrested Menon.

Not an isolated case

Bangalore Mirror had previously reported on Menon's fraudulent activities in 2020. Among his victims was Ben, a sports consultant who purchased a car from him in 2018, only to later discover that it had two outstanding loans totalling Rs 8.5 lakh. Another victim, Nithin, an event manager, was duped into contributing Rs 65 lakh to a bogus fundraising scheme run by Menon's wife between 2014 and 2018. Similarly, software engineer Sandeep lost Rs 6.8 lakh in a fake visa deal orchestrated by Menon.

Despite multiple complaints, the city police had earlier filed a 'B report,' citing a lack of evidence to prosecute him

Despite multiple complaints, the city police had earlier filed a 'B report,' citing a lack of evidence to prosecute him. However, fresh investigations by the Coimbatore police led to his arrest.

84 victims in Gujarat

The accused was also involved in elaborate scams in Gujarat, where he defrauded at least 84 individuals. In one instance, a victim lost Rs 7 lakh after Menon falsely promised assistance in migrating to Australia. Although he had confessed to his crimes in 2020, authorities had closed the case due to insufficient evidence. Now, with his arrest, the case has been reopened for further investigation.

A written confession by Menon has surfaced, in which he admits to deceiving his victims and acknowledges that all his claims were fabricated. Although this document had been available earlier, legal action was not taken at the time due to the police filing a 'B report.'

IN BRIEF

B'luru talks mobility

Our goal is to transform Bengaluru into a holistically developed city where every transportation need is met. This means creating an efficient, accessible, and sustainable transportation network that caters to all citizens," said DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka, at the launch of 'Namma Raste' (Our Streets) 2025.

The second edition of the annual exhibition being held at Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) headquarters focuses on integrated, multimodal transport solutions for Bengaluru. The program has been designed to find solutions for the development of roads, footpaths, and traffic congestion control with the coordination of various departments under one roof.

The event is being hosted by BBMP, with support from WRI and more than 50 partner organisations. —BMB

'Namma Raste Kaipidi' Book

At the event, Shivakumar also launched 'Namma Raste Kaipidi,' an illustrated guidebook that outlines best practices in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of roads. The guidebook aims to improve Bengaluru's 12,000 km road network, ensuring that they are designed for long-term sustainability and resilience.

"Just as the constitution serves as a guidebook for our nation, this Kaipidi should be the blueprint for our roads, ensuring that every aspect of our transportation infrastructure is thoughtfully planned and executed," he said. Namma Raste Kaipidi, an illustrated handbook, outlines best practices in road design, construction, operation, and maintenance. The standard operating procedures (SOP) for the 12,878.78 km of roads within BBMP limits have been outlined in the handbook apart from best practices for road design, construction, operation, and maintenance. —BMB

Advertorial Promotional Feature

BM Food & Night Life

Hosting & organising a guilt-free kids' party

Hosting and organising a guilt-free kids' party involves more than simply selecting nutritious food, it also includes establishing an environment that encourages happiness. Here's how to throw an interesting and wholesome party that makes both adults and children feel good:

Plan The Food Thoughtfully And Consciously

The cornerstone of a guilt-free children's party is intelligent meal planning. As a replacement to refined treats such as chips, sugary drinks, or deep-fried foods, think about delivering healthy, nutritious options. Choose whole-grain or gluten-free crusts topped with lean protein and fresh produce, for instance, rather than white-flour pizzas. Roasted chickpeas or whole-grain veggie fritters are baked replacements for classic deep-fried treats such as pakoras.

Pick Desserts Packed With Nutrients

Kids adore desserts, and an occasion isn't complete without some sweets. Desserts that are healthy, however, can still fulfill their needs. Instead of refined sugar, think about using natural sweeteners such as coconut sugar, dates, or jaggery. Desserts such as fruit-based ice cream or protein balls prepared with oats, nuts, seeds, and dried fruits are delicious as well as healthy substitutes for standard sugar-filled cakes or pastries.

Presentation is key

When nutritious foods are presented in an enjoyable manner, children are more likely to eat them. With a selection of fresh fruits and veggies, you can make an attractive salad bar and let children create their own assortment. Providing tiny wrap stations with veggie fillings, hummus, and whole wheat wraps can also be fun and entertaining. Using cookie cutters to create imaginative shapes out of fruits, and sandwiches provides an enjoyable component.

—Nutritionist Eshanka Wahi for Femina
Disclaimer: All views are the author's own.

2016 flashback? B'luru's hot spell sparks heatwave fears

Daytime temperatures have crossed 34°C, with 68 extreme heat days recorded in 2024; experts say April rains could provide relief, while IMD forecasts clear skies and mild winds

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Bengaluru is witnessing an early onset of summer, with daytime temperatures already breaching the 34°C mark. Over the past two decades, the city has experienced six notably harsh summers, with 2016 recording the highest number of extreme heat days at 76.

According to Namma Karnataka Weather updates on X (formerly Twitter), Bengaluru saw a relatively mild summer between 2020 and 2023. However, 2024 broke the trend with 68 days above 34°C, marking a return to scorching summers. The year 2019 followed closely with 74 such days, while 2014 recorded 71. Other significant years include 2013 (69 days), 2017 (68 days), and 2012 (57 days). The overall average for the past 20 years suggests Bengaluru experiences 48 days of high temperatures during the summer season. Meanwhile, experts stated that La Niña conditions could positively influence summer rainfall, which may provide some relief. "April rains will eventually decide the fate of this summer. A good spell of rain next month can ensure a more pleasant season," stated Namma Karnataka Weather.

Meanwhile, Rajavel Manickam, Head of LACD, IMD (India Meteorological Department), provided an update on the synoptic conditions across Karnataka. Light to moderate southerly and southeasterly winds are prevailing over the state, influencing temperature variations.

> **April rains will decide the fate of this summer. A good spell can ensure more pleasant season**
> –Namma Karnataka Weather

The city continues to experience rising temperatures, with maximum temperatures ranging between 34-36°C at Bengaluru City and Kempegowda International Airport (KIAL), according to Rajavel Manickam, Head of LACD, IMD. The prevailing light to moderate southerly and southeasterly winds are influencing weather conditions across Karnataka. He said, "In Bengaluru and surrounding regions, minimum temperatures have been recorded between 17-20°C, while areas like Chikkamagaluru, Hassan, Madikeri, Chitradurga, and Shivamogga are witnessing similar trends. Meanwhile, the city is expected to see mainly clear skies with fog or mist during early morning hours. The IMD has forecast a maximum temperature of 33°C and a minimum of 19°C in the coming days."

Waste and stench overrun Pottery Lane

Citizens demand enforcement, marshals, and CCTC, to tackle this issue

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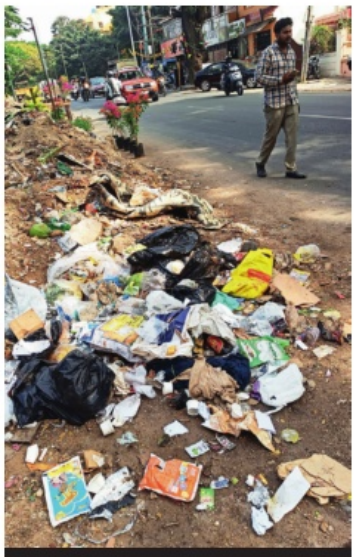
The residents of Pottery Lane are struggling with severe garbage dumping in their neighbourhood despite repeated complaints to authorities. Although boards have been put up warning against dumping, the area remains littered with waste every day. The absence of marshals to impose fines and the lack of surveillance cameras have led to a complete disregard for cleanliness, making the situation worse.

Residents say that the stench from the garbage is unbearable, especially in the mornings and evenings. "The smell is horrible. We cannot open our windows and the entire street stinks. The waste includes plastic bags, food waste, and discarded items from eateries nearby, leading to serious health concerns," said Krupama, a resident of SK Garden.



(File photo) Garbage also fuels mosquito growth

Apart from the foul smell, the garbage has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes, increasing the risk of diseases such as dengue and malaria. "There are so many mosquitoes here; we are afraid of falling sick. Children in the area have already been affected by fevers. We have already seen last year how many children were affected by dengue cases. We don't want another outbreak, " said another resident, Aiman F.

Adding to the problem, the garbage heap has attracted rodents and stray animals. "We see large rats running around in the garbage, and cows are often seen eating from the waste. Stray dogs also gather around the dump. At the same time, the place gets cleaned up in the mornings. The situation again remains the same in the night. And this is posing a huge problem. We need strict enforcement here to bring in some change despite some clean up and beautification done in the past here. The place has not seen a change for years now," said a regular commuter, Aditya.

Residents said the situation has worsened with the rise of small eateries, resulting in more waste disposal. Many food stalls have emerged, dumping waste directly onto the street without any monitoring.

> **Residents complain abandoned cars block space, hindering movement**

The issue does not end with garbage alone. Residents have also raised concerns about old, unused cars that have been abandoned on the road. These vehicles take up space, making it difficult for people to walk or drive through the lane. "The footpaths are already in bad shape, and these abandoned cars make it even worse. We are forced to walk on the road," pointed out a local flower vendor.

Despite complaints to the authorities, no action has been taken. Residents are urging authorities to deploy marshals, install CCTV cameras, and fine violators to put an end to the issue.

Segregation of waste at source only way out

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of 845 TPD. Further 1,925 TPD of dry waste is being generated, leading to a gap of 725 TPD. When it comes to Construction and Demolition waste, Bengaluru is generating a total of 4,750 TPD. As per the report, 1,750 TPD is being processed leaving a gap of 3,000 TPD under this category of waste.

Of the total wet waste generated in Karnataka, the BBMP limit contributes to about 45%.

Bengaluru is also generating 75 MTPD of domestic hazardous waste which is being sent to incineration plants operated by authorized vendors from the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board.

As per the report, the wet waste processing capacity of the state is expected to go up by 4,762TPD, which will not only cater to the current gap but will also take care of future requirements.

However, city-based solid waste management (SWM) experts have refuted this, pointing to a surge in waste volume over the last few years. They opine that the only way to ensure 100% processing of waste is by segregating it at source.

"While the report talks about the safe disposal of household hazardous waste, it is rarely being segregated at source. While wet waste and sanitary waste are being segregated in parts of the city before it is collected by BBMP, household hazardous waste goes out mixed with dry waste. Even if the waste processing capacity in Karnataka, including Bengaluru, has been increased, there is no visible change. The urban local bodies should consider decentralised processing of solid waste to bring down the pressure on waste processing units," said a city-based SWM expert.

Experts also suggest that ULBs should promote on-site composting, both by households and businesses to help fill the gap between waste generation and processing.

Bodies of B'luru couple found in car

Police recovered the bodies of a couple under suspicious circumstances from Dasarahalli village in the communally-sensitive Chikkamagaluru district on Thursday.

According to police, preliminary investigations indicate that the couple was from Bengaluru. The body of the young woman was found inside a car, while the young man's body was discovered hanging from a tree branch close to the vehicle.

The couple, aged between 25 and 30 years, were found under mysterious circumstances. The police found signs of strangulation on the woman's neck, and the man had reportedly used a dupatta to hang himself.

The car, which has a Bengaluru registration number, is a yellow-board vehicle. Police suspect that the man may have been a driver from Magadi town near Bengaluru, but no information has been gathered about the woman so far. — IANS

Headmasters to be monitored

Present teacher? School education department issues directive that requires principals to record movements and produce event invitations if they have to leave during school hours

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The Karnataka School Education Department has issued a directive requiring all headmasters to officially record their movements when attending meetings or events during school hours. Additionally, they must attach the official invitation or notification for the event. This decision follows a note from the Private Secretary to the Minister for School Education, Literacy, and Shivamogga District In-Charge, dated September 21, 2024. It was observed that several primary and high school headmasters were frequently absent during official hours for external meetings and events, disrupting the delivery of quality education to students.

In his order, Vijay E Ravikumar, Joint Director (Administration), stated, "To ensure accountability, the department has instructed that before attending any event, headmasters must log their movements in the official register and attach the relevant invitation or notification. All Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) across the state have been directed to implement these guidelines without exception."

Reacting to this, schoolteacher Ratna Kumari said, "When headmasters leave school during teaching hours without proper documentation, it disrupts the learning environment and affects students' academic progress. This directive is crucial for maintaining discipline and ensuring that students receive the continuous guidance they need. Additionally, keeping an official record of movements promotes transparency and helps prevent unnecessary absences. By mandating documentation and attaching event invitations, the Education Department is reinforcing accountability among school heads and ensuring their participation in external events is justified."

Headmasters must log their movements in the official register and attach the relevant invitation or notification

> **This directive is crucial for maintaining discipline and ensuring that students receive the continuous guidance they need**
>
> –Ratna Kumari, teacher

Parents said that there is a need to strike a balance between administration and teaching. Harsha Gowda, a parent said, "While we understand the need for headmasters to attend official meetings, it should not come at the cost of classroom education. With proper tracking, we can balance administrative duties with the primary responsibility of providing quality education to students. Our children look up to their headmasters for guidance, and their absence during school hours can disrupt the learning atmosphere. While meetings are important, ensuring that they don't affect students' education is even more crucial. This new directive will help maintain discipline and accountability in schools."

State has new Principal Chief Conservator of Forests

The Karnataka Government has appointed 1989-batch Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Meenakshi Negi as the new Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Head of Forest Force). She will be the first woman HoFF in the Karnataka Forest Department.

Negi will take over the charge from IFS officer, Brijesh Dikshit, who retired nearly three weeks ago. SK Malkhede, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (wildlife) and Chief Wildlife Warden of Karnataka was holding the additional charge since then. Before her current appointment as the head of the forest force in KFD, Negi served as the Member Secretary of the National Commission for Women (NCW) since her appointment in March 2023. The appointment is welcome news for many wildlife conservationists and activists who had raised concerns regarding the post of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests lying vacant for weeks. They had also approached Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre and expressed that the absence of a dedicated head of forest force may negatively impact the goal of forest and wildlife conservation.

They also highlighted that both posts are crucial for the overall administration of the forests and wildlife in the state. Over the last ten years, Negi has held various posts including Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest & CEO (CAMPA) and Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (APCCF) in Working Plan with Karnataka Forest Department. She has also served as Commissioner and Chief Executive Officer of the National Medicinal Plants Board. **IANS**

HC reserves matter on ED summons

The Karnataka High Court has reserved the matter on two separate Enforcement Directorate (ED) summons concerning Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife BM Parvathi and Urban Development Minister Bhyrati Suresh in connection with the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) scam case.

Justice M Nagaprasanna on Thursday went through the arguments and counter-arguments, following which he extended the interim order, staying the summons issued by ED and reserved the matter for judgment.

Parvathi, named as the second accused in the case, is seeking to quash the summons issued by the ED to appear for questioning. Minister for Urban Development Bhyrati Suresh, a close confidante of CM Siddaramaiah, had also filed a petition seeking relief from the ED's summons to appear for the investigation. The investigation is required as these 14 sites are proceeds of the crime.

'Nomination during person's lifetime doesn't override rights of legal heirs'

The High Court of Karnataka has determined that a nomination made during a person's lifetime does not override the rights of legal heirs after death. The court clarified that post-death, the estate or amount devolves to legal heirs according to inheritance laws.

Justice Hanchate Sanjeevkumar, in a single-judge ruling, dismissed an appeal by Annapurna who contested the trial court's decision. The trial court had rejected her application for impleadment in a suit where legal heirs of Kantesh Khandagale sought a succession certificate under Section 372 of the Indian Succession Act.

The appellant argued that as the nominee in Kantesh's insurance policy, she held legal entitlement to receive the policy amount.

She maintained that her status as the deceased's nominee made her the rightful recipient of the policy amount, rather than respondent Nos.1 and 2.

Citing Section 39(7)(8) of the Insurance Act, 1938, the appellant claimed exclusive rights to the insurance amount as the sole nominee. She expressed concern that a succession certificate would impede her ability to receive the policy amount.

Findings

The court acknowledged the appellant's nomination status but emphasised that "Just because the deceased has made the appellant as nominee, that does not defeat the law of succession, when other legal heirs are having a right to claim estate of the deceased." The court explained that nomination serves to facilitate initial payment by banking or insurance institutions to nominees without complications. The bench stated, "But, just because a nominee is made it does not create any disentitlement by other legal heirs as per their right vested under the law of succession." Citing the Supreme Court's judgment in Sarabati Devi and another V/s Usha Devi 1984, the court concluded, "There is no merit in the contention taken by the appellant that just because the appellant is made as nominee then, she alone is entitled to receive the entire amount depriving the right of other legal heirs. So, the appeal is liable to be dismissed having no merits to consider the case."

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I NASREEN BEGAUM W/o Mohamed Yasin R/o Site No 5 Khatha No 65/1 4th Crs Maragondanahalli Shikaripalya Electronic city Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to NASREEN BEGUM for all Purposes

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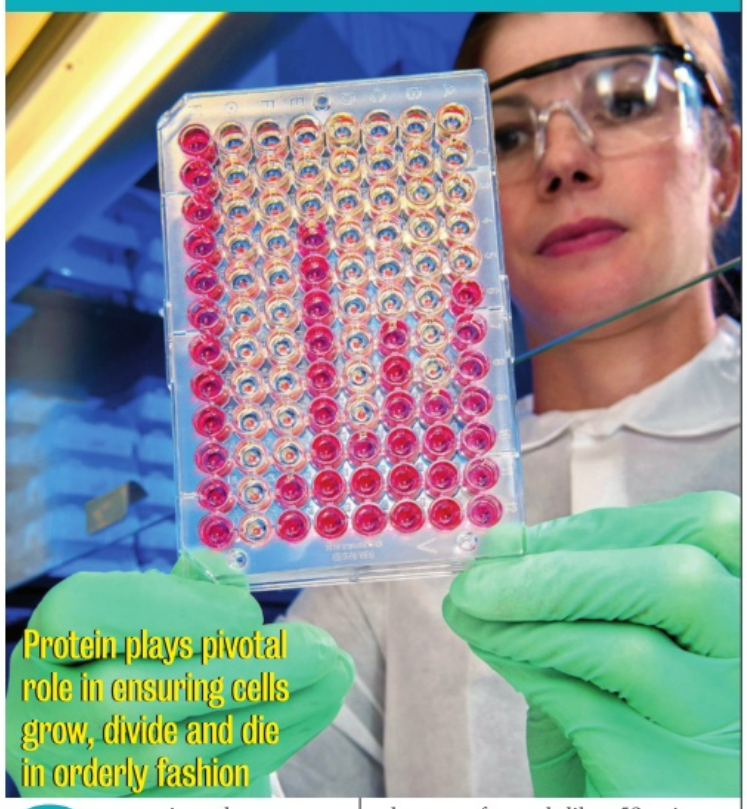
p53: A guardian and weak link



Protein plays pivotal role in ensuring cells grow, divide and die in orderly fashion

Cancer arises when your cells grow uncontrollably and refuse to die when they should. Normally, your body is equipped with regulatory processes to prevent this chaos. One such mechanism involves a protein called p53. Often dubbed the "guardian of the genome," this protein plays a pivotal role in ensuring that your cells grow, divide and die in an orderly fashion. When p53 malfunctions, the result is often cancer.

Learning about how p53 works has not only deepened how scientists understand cancer, but also provided promising avenues for new treatments.

In my work as a cancer researcher, I study the underlying mechanisms of how tumors develop and resist treatment. By understanding how cancer cells bypass safeguards like p53, scientists can find better ways to stop them, leading to more effective treatments for patients.

How p53 works

Each cell contains DNA that instructs it how to function. Over time, this instruction manual can accumulate errors due to various factors like exposure to harmful ultraviolet rays, smoking or even just natural wear and tear. This is where p53 comes in. It acts like a vigilant proofreader, detecting errors in DNA and deciding how to handle them. If the damage is minor, p53 instructs the cell to repair it. But if the damage is beyond repair, p53 triggers a process called apoptosis, or programmed cell death, ensuring the faulty cell doesn't turn cancerous.

In more than half of all human cancers, p53 is either missing or dysfunctional. This often happens when the gene that encodes for p53 is mutated or deleted. Without a functioning p53, errors in DNA go unchecked, allowing damaged cells to multiply and form tumors.

Targeting p53 pathways

Given its crucial role in preventing cancer, p53 has become a major target for drug development.

Over the years, scientists have devised various strategies to target the p53 pathway, or the network of molecules p53 controls to regulate cell growth, repair DNA damage and trigger cell death. Rather than acting alone, p53 interacts with multiple molecular pathways – some of which researchers are still discovering – that help determine a cell's fate.

Treatment approaches aim to restore or mimic p53's function in cells where it has gone awry. For example, scientists have developed small molecules that can bind to mutant p53 and stabilize its faulty structure, restoring its ability to bind DNA and regulate genes. Drugs like PRIMA-1 and MIRA-1 essentially "rescue" p53, allowing it to resume its role as the cell's guardian.

Even when p53 is missing, scientists can still target the processes it normally controls to treat cancer. For example, drugs can activate apoptosis or halt cell division in ways that mimic p53's normal function. Drugs like ABT-737 or Navitoclax can block proteins in the p53 pathway that usually stop apoptosis, allowing cell death to occur even when p53 is absent.

Targeting p53's overseers

Researchers are also investigating other proteins that interact with p53 as potential treatment options. Because the p53 pathway is highly complex, targeting different parts of this network presents both opportunities and challenges.

My colleagues and I are studying two other closely related proteins that regulate p53 by marking it for destruction when it's no longer needed. These proteins, called MDM2 and MDMX, become overactive in cancer and break down p53.

Researchers have developed drugs to block MDM2 or MDMX, but targeting just one of these proteins is often not enough. If one is blocked, the other can step in and continue to destroy p53. Most existing drugs are also much better at blocking MDM2 than MDMX due to subtle differences in the latter's shape, including a smaller area for p53 to bind. This makes it harder for drugs designed to target MDM2 to effectively bind to or reach MDMX.

To find molecules that could bind to both MDM2 and MDMX, researchers traditionally synthesize and test each molecule individually, which is often time-intensive and costly. In contrast, my colleagues and I used computer modeling tools to simulate how thousands of molecules might interact with the proteins, allowing us to narrow down potential candidates much more quickly.

We identified a small molecule we called CPO that shows promise in its ability to target both MDM2 and MDMX. Our models showed that CPO may have a stronger ability to block both MDM2 and MDMX than another molecule that researchers previously found could inhibit both of these proteins in cell culture.

More research is needed to confirm whether CPO works in living systems the same way it does in our computer predictions. If CPO is as safe and effective in cell and animal models, it may offer another treatment option for cancers where MDM2 and MDMX are overactive.

p53 and cancer treatment

The journey to fully harnessing the p53 pathway for cancer therapeutics is ongoing, and researchers are exploring several promising options.

Advances in gene-editing technologies like CRISPR are opening doors to directly correct p53 mutations in cancer cells.

Additionally, researchers are exploring combination therapies that pair p53-targeting drugs with other treatments, such as immunotherapy, to amplify their effectiveness.

Like other cancer treatments, one major challenge is ensuring the drugs target p53 in cancer cells and spare healthy cells from unnecessary damage. Achieving this balance will be crucial in translating these therapies from the lab to the clinic.

(Prosper Obed Chukwuemeka, University of Pittsburgh, The Conversation)

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KOREAN WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES
SONG HYE-KYO JEON YEO-BEEN LEE JIN-UK MOON WOO JIN
IN CINEMAS NOW
PVR·INOX
NEXUS MALL Koramangala, 5:10 p.m. |
ORION MALL Dr. Rajkumar Road, 4:55 p.m. |
PHOENIX MARKET CITY Whitefield Road, 4:25 p.m. |
VEGA CITY Bannerghatta Road, 7:55 p.m. |
GARUDA MALL Magrath Road, 5:10 p.m. |
cinépolis
NEXUS SHANTINIKETAN Whitefield Road, 2:15 p.m.
*Check online for updated showtimes as they may vary.

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Aanandi Joshi presents a mix of Bollywood classics, folk, Sufi, fusion & contemporary music
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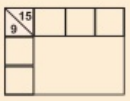
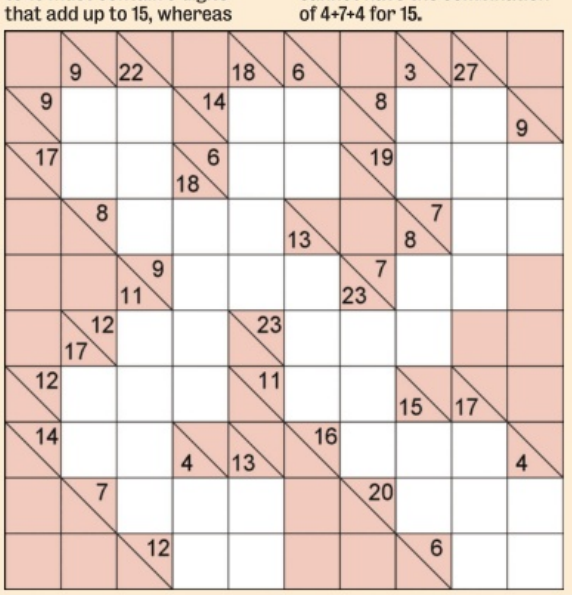
Kakuro

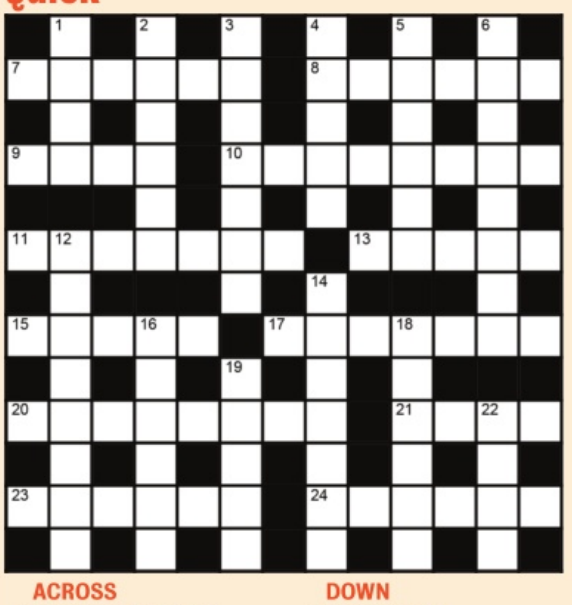
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Government office (6)
8 Stadia (6)
9 Repair or darn (4)
10 ___ acid: Vitamin C (8)
11 Takes an oath; pawns? (7)
13 One of the Amritraj brothers (5)
15 Smelly creature? (5)
17 Omani or Iraqi (7)
20 Tchaikovsky ballet (4,4)
21 Smell _ __ : suspect foul play (1,3)
23 Savage; very cruel (6)
24 Production (6)

DOWN

1 Christmas (4)
2 Sowed a field (6)
3 Changes by radiation or genetic engineering (7)
4 Sudden whim (5)
5 German misters (6)
6 Spanish ranch (8)
12 Tepid (4-4)
14 Park in Bangalore's Central Business District (7)
16 Nervous cricket score (6)
18 Explosions (6)
19 Travels by ship (5)
22 An astringent (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS T

OHLQBHQ LO WRQ VUQNW NBWLJDWQ WD WRQ MDLODB DX QBWRPOLNOA NBJ OP-MQUOWLWLDB.

Linemaro

At least two friends are going to name their baby after you

Mindchow

Any change, even for the better, is always accompanied by drawbacks and discomforts

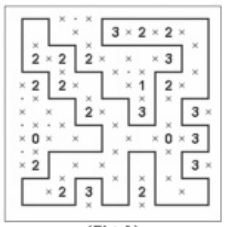
Joke of the day

Sergeant: Private, I think the enemy soldiers are hiding in the wood. I want you to go in there and flush them out for us. Private: Okay, sir, but if you see a bunch of guys running out the woods, don't shoot the one in front.

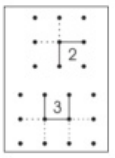
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

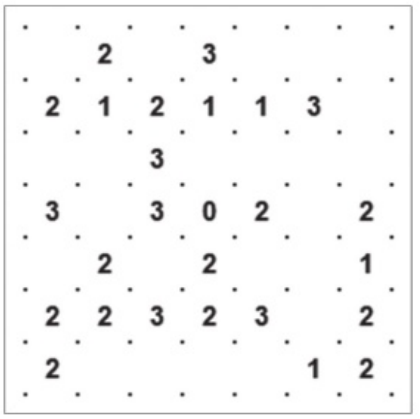


(Fig B) Not Allowed

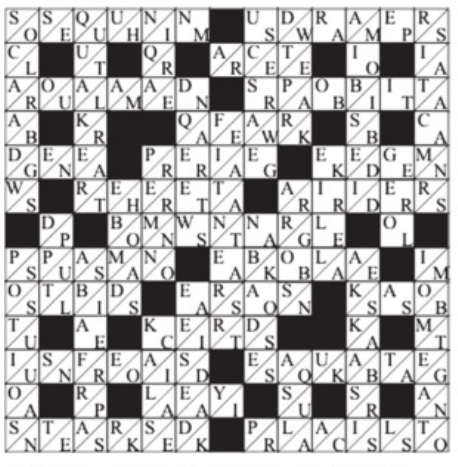
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		H		

ACROSS

1 Rotes; 6 Tours; 7 Cep ta; 8 Chine; 9 Roc he

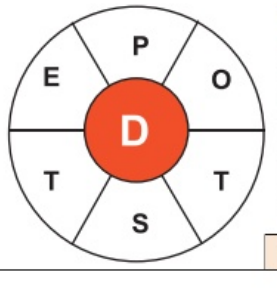
DOWN

1 Tones; 2 Optic; 3 Or cha; 4 Cur he; 5 Retes

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last circle?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **11** Good; **13** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	2	9			6			
6					2		8	9
5	3			4	1	2		
		7						8
4								3
9						5		
		2	6	8			7	5
8	9		7					2
			1			8	3	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 5

5 5 6 9

Medium = 45

2 4 6 9

Hard = 10

1 7 8 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

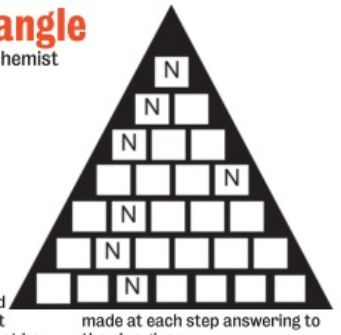
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Tie is shorter. 3. Hat is smaller. 4. Paper is missing. 5. Glasses are missing. 6. Thumb is moved.

Riddler

A man gets off the bus looking for an address and approaches a couple walking in the same direction for directions. The woman says they're going that way and take him. Along the way the man asks if they're related. The woman grins and says, "We're not strangers. This man's mother is my mother's mother-in-law." The man is confused but doesn't say anything. When he gets back home he tells his wife about the conversation and she can't figure it out either. They decide to ask their lawyer and he eventually works it out with pen and paper. How are the couple related?

Alpha triangle

1 Nitrogen for the chemist
2 Neon symbol
3 Given name
4 Spotted
5 Lower joints
6 Genuflects
7 Doghouses

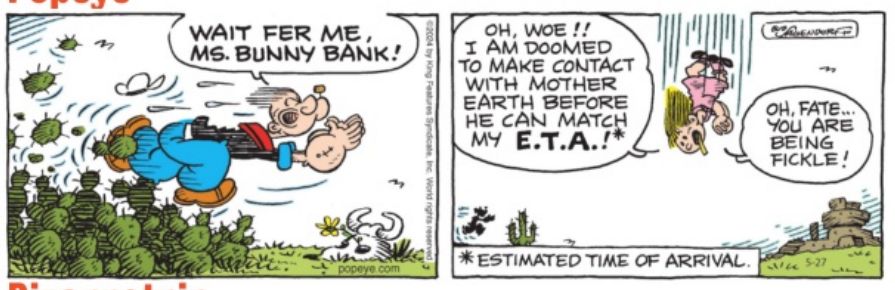


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye

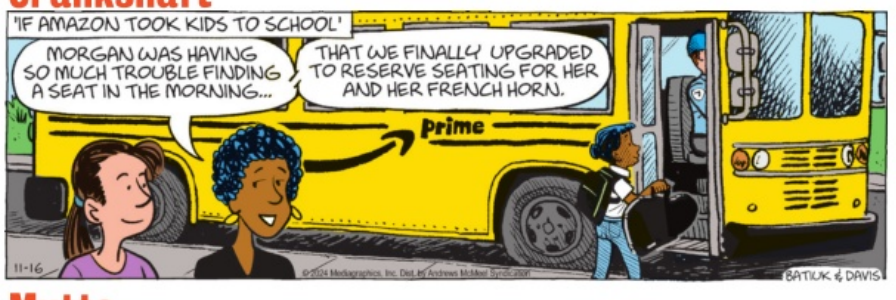


Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
You will feel happy and full of energy, which will enhance your reputation among those around you. You may spend time studying intellectual subjects and might even plan for higher studies to advance your career. Students can expect good news regarding competitive exams.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
The day may start off dull, but by the evening, you will be able to overcome negativity. New people may enter your professional circle, helping you revamp your business plans. However, be cautious and thoroughly read any documents before signing them.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
With divine blessings, you will gain control over indecisiveness. Children's health will improve, and colleagues will be supportive, leading to success in your projects. You may receive incentives along with your salary. Those in fields related to dairy, water projects, grains, homemaking, art, and culture will perform well.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
You will be engaged in family gatherings and social events, making you more polite and respected among your peers. You may spend money on artefacts or household items that enhance your social status. Expect some good news from a close relative.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Happiness and the moon's blessings will bring positivity to your day. You will feel healthy and perform well in all aspects of life, enhancing your reputation. Your focus and concentration will be strong, enabling you to make important business decisions for growth.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Your energy levels may feel low, and an old health issue could resurface, causing discomfort. Avoid adventure sports and rash driving. Legal matters should be resolved amicably rather than through litigation. Try to avoid unnecessary arguments, and if possible, plan an overseas trip.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You will start your day on a happy note. Quick decision-making at work will enhance your management skills, leading to benefits in the future. New sources of income may boost your savings. With your business partner's help, you might invest capital in a venture. Harmony in domestic life will improve your bond with your spouse.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
A busy work schedule may leave you exhausted, limiting your time for family gatherings. However, you will build overseas connections. Be cautious with investments. Those in jobs may receive a promotion.

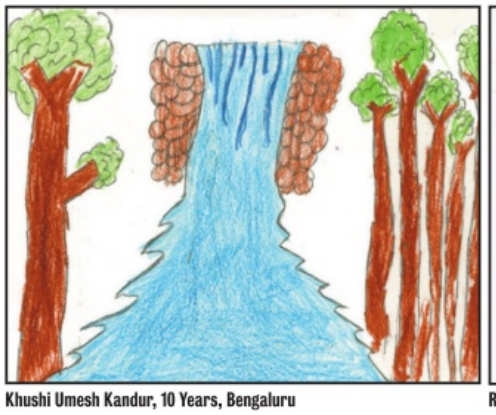
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Situations will be under control, and destiny will favour you in business gains. Your hard work will be recognised, possibly bringing rewards. This is a good time to restart postponed projects. A peaceful religious trip is likely, and you may also consider donating to a religious or charitable cause.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The moon's unfavourable position may bring health issues. You could experience losses in business or investments, so avoid financial risks today. Your gains may turn into losses, so refrain from investing in unworthy ventures. Steer clear of controversies to avoid negativity.

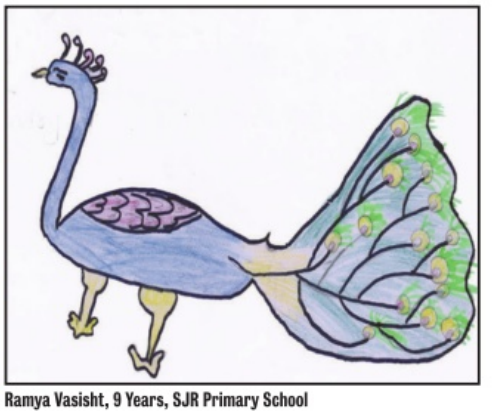
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
With the moon's blessings, you may receive good news related to your profession. Domestic life will be joyful, but avoid unnecessary arguments. Overexcitement may challenge your patience. This is a good time for real estate investments. Students will remain focused on their studies.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
The moon's positive influence will bring love into your personal life. Singles may find a suitable match. Professionally, you will perform well, with strong support from friends and subordinates. Investments in gems and jewellery could yield positive returns. However, take care of elderly family members' health.

KIDZONE



Khushi Umesh Kandur, 10 Years, Bengaluru



Ramya Vasisht, 9 Years, SJR Primary School

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
(256+144) (256-144)/112
= (400) x (112) / 112
= 44800 / 112 = 400

RIDDLER
The couple is either a man and his daughter or an uncle and his niece.

QUOTE UNCODE
Science is the great antidote to the poison of enthusiasm and superstition.

FAST FIVE

S	T	O	R	E
E	P	A	C	T
N	I	C	H	E
O	C	H	E	R

BULL'S EYE
dopet, despot, dope, dose, dote, opted, posed, posted, potted, toed, toted

STRIKE OUT

N	E	A	R	E	D	R	A	C	I	S	T			
O		R		L	E	Y		U		R		N		
R	O	A	M	E	D		R	A	B	B	I	T		
A		K			A	F	A	R		B		A		
G	E		P	R	I	G		K	E	E	N			
S		R	H	E	T	T		A	I	D	E	S		
P		O	N	S	T	A	G	E		L				
P	U	S	A	N		E	B	O	L	A		M		
O	L	I	D		A	S	A	N		S	A	O		
T		E	K	I	T	S		K		M				
I	N	R	O	A	D		E	Q	U	A	T	E		
O		R		L	E	Y		U		R		N		
S	E	O	U	I	N		S	W	A	M	P	S		

QUICK

		Y		S		M		F		H		H		
	B		R		U		T		A		L		O	
U		T		P		U		T		L		E		
	A				I		D				S		E	
S		W		A		N		L		A		K		E
	E				I				E		L			
S		K		U		N		K		A		R		A
	U				S		F				D			
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SPACE CADET

Bhumi reveals how forgetful she is

After films like Bhakshak, Afwah, and Bheed, Bhumi Pednekar is all set to return to comedy with Mudassar Aziz's Mere Husband Ki Biwi, where she teams up with Arjun Kapoor and Rakul Preet Singh. In the film, Bhumi plays Prableen, a character suffering from partial amnesia who is determined to marry Arjun's character—completely forgetting that they had divorced a while back.

In an exclusive interview with ETimes, the actress opened up about if she is actually very forgetful in real life, she said , "I forget things every 5 minutes. I'm a very big space cadet, I even forgot the point I was supposed to say... you are asking a mess of a person..."

Agreeing with Bhumi's statement, her director Mudassar Aziz joked, "We have done method casting for this role (laughs). People do method acting; we do method casting (laughs). But she is right—she does forget a lot. She and I are phone buddies. We can talk for a long time, and she'll start a conversation passionately. After 15 minutes, she'll ask, 'What was I talking about?' (laughs)."

Following this film, Bhumi will soon make her OTT debut with The Royals, where she will be seen alongside Ishaan Khatter, Zeenat Aman, and Sakshi Tanwar. She plays Sophia Kanmani Shekhar, the CEO of a luxury homestay startup in India. Additionally, she is set to star in another web series titled Daldal, where she will portray a cop for the first time. Taking to Instagram last October, she described her role as DCP Rita Ferreira as one of the most complex characters of her career.

—Jigar Shah, ETimes

Romantic comedy with a twist

Nimagondu Sihi Suddi

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** Raghu Bhat
- **ACTORS** Raghu Bhat, Kavya Shetty, Prajwal, Vijay Raghavendra (cameo), Sujay Shastry, and Shilpa.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **Duration** 133 minutes

Director Raghu Bhat deserves a pat on the back for wearing multiple hats – he has written the script, directed, and played the lead – in the movie. As an actor and director, he had done well. He has tried to make a movie based on an unique concept - a man's pregnancy.

The movie begins with Arjun Hebbar aka Arjun (Raghu Bhat) suffering from stomach pain. Arjun tries to contact his friend Deen Dayala aka DD (Prajwal) but in vain. He calls for an ambulance to take him to the hospital. Later he gets discharged and finds a cesarean scar on his stomach. As if it that is not enough, he finds a baby girl at his home. He tries his best to abandon the baby but fails to do so. He meets Police Inspector Narayan (Sujay Shastry) to find out who left the baby at his home. The more he tries to abandon the baby the more it becomes tough for him.

The director introduces a flashback here showing how Arjun, a famous chef, fell in love with a well-known foods company owner (Kavya Shetty) and what made her to maintain a distance with him. You have to watch the movie to know who the parents of the baby are.

Though the movie is verbose, comedy scenes, especially the police station scene, tickle the audiences' funny bone. Bhat has acted well. Kavya Shetty looks beautiful and has done justice to her role. Vijay Raghavendra, who makes special appearance, adds value. Shilpa Shailesh and Harini Shreekanth provide good support.

Ashwini Hemanth's music is good and Anand Sundaresha has done a good job behind the camera.

The movie is worth a watch for those who want some relief from the mundane.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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